



A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

November 18, 2010

Jared Blumenfeld  
Region 9 Administrator  
U.S. EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7-1)  
San Francisco, California 94105

Attention: Lynda Deschambault, Remedial Project Manager

Subject: Final Omega Operable Unit-2 Remedial Investigations and Feasibility;  
Support of Omega OU2 Alternatives 4 and 5 and EPA Fund Lead of Remediation

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

The Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority (SEWC) has been active in preventing the contamination of the Central Groundwater Basin in southeast Los Angeles County for 20 years. Representing a population of 700,000, SEWC members include the cities of Commerce, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier. SEWC was established in 1991 for the principal purpose of preventing the contamination of Central Groundwater Basin from TCE and PCE contaminated groundwater flowing through the Whittier Narrows originating in the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin; a Superfund site and the source of the contaminated groundwater.

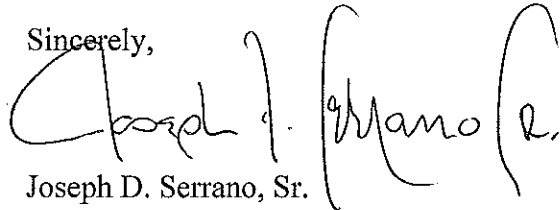
The Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority and its members support a combination of Alternatives 4 and 5 of the Proposed Plan for the remediation of contaminated groundwater at the Omega OU2 Superfund Site in Los Angeles County. SEWC's strong position is based on technical analysis and reflects our collective opinion that Alternative 6, which EPA has designated as the Preferred Alternative, will be more difficult to implement. In contrast, SEWC believes Alternatives 4 and 5, which involve the retraction, treatment and reinjection of treated water back to groundwater and/or the spreading facilities at the new pipeline that connects the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds at Mines Avenue, can be implemented more quickly and without adverse local reaction.

We also agree that remediation needs to begin as soon as possible and, in support of that goal, we do hereby formally request that the USEPA determine this to be a Fund Lead Project so that a remediation plan can be implemented in a more timely manner so that local drinking water wells will be protected from further contamination.

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Again, SEWC requests that given the urgency of immediate remediation that EPA fund lead the remediation process rather than organizing PRPs for the purpose of funding remediation prior to the initiation of remediation activities. Should you need any clarification or wish to discuss this issue further, please contact Jim Glancy, SEWC Administrative Entity Chair at (562) 866-9771, extension 2701.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Serrano, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph D. Serrano, Sr.  
Chair, Board of Directors

JDS/jg/mc

xc: SEWC Board Members  
SEWC Administrative Entity Members